

CHARLESTON MISSION TRIP NEEDS

If you are interested in supporting the youth mission trip to Charleston, SC but aren't sure how...this is your chance! The food and needs for 62 people on a mission trip are massive! We could still use the following items :

***Cases of bottled water:** Each participant gets a bottled water in the morning, then uses the bottle to refill from the water jug for the remainder of the work day.

***Breakfast Items:** We have a cold breakfast each morning. Fast and easy is the key. Large boxes of muffins, Danish, mini donuts, iced honey buns, pop tarts, cereal (the kinds that kids like!!), etc...

***Cookies:** Large boxes of **individually** wrapped packs of cookies. Everyone grabs a pack of cookies for their lunch each day - 62 x 5 = 310 packs of cookies!

***Chips:** Large variety packs (usually 50 per box) are best. Just like the cookies, we go through a bag of chips per person per day...310 bags of chips!

All items can be dropped off in the teen room by Sunday, June 5th. THANKS!!!

LeRoy First United Methodist Church
201 North Chestnut St., P.O. Box 164
LeRoy, IL 61752

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sundays:

8:45-11:45 Nursery

9:00 Christian Education

9:00 Worship

10:30 Worship

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about our church

First United Methodist
201 N. Chestnut
P.O. Box 164
LeRoy, IL 61752

(309) 962-7091

info@leroyumc.org

Visit us on the web at

www.leroyumc.org

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THE LAMPLIGHTER

LeRoy First UMC Monthly Newsletter

June 2016



Habitat for Humanity®

It's time for us to be outside of our walls and showing the community around us our faith as we begin this build season for Habitat for Humanity, and we couldn't be more excited for the work! May 26th is Ground Breaking day but the build will be going on until November as we take turns throughout the community recruiting volunteers to come together and serve on the weekends to build this new home. We are excited because we know a family will become more secure. We are excited because we can put our hands to the message we proclaim each week in worship. We are excited because there is still the challenge of getting it all done ahead of us. And we are most excited for the fact that Christ will be present to us and our community while we build. Learn more about how you can connect to us through this build by calling the church office or by going to our website www.leroyumc.org

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Eric

In This Issue

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INVITATION TO STUDY THE BOOK OF JAMES!

If it's time to get involved in a small-group study of the Bible, then this invitation is meant just for YOU!

The adult Sunday School class held after 9 am worship is beginning a study of the Book of JAMES, authored by Rick Warren (also Purpose Driven Life author). Each week's session begins with a short DVD presentation on certain passages from James, with an easy-to-follow fill-in-the-blank worksheet. Following the video, the class discusses the scriptures and message just heard. For example, Lesson 1 entitled **How to Profit from Your Problems** covered James 1:2-6, with

James 1:2-3 ~ **4 Facts of Life You Need to Know:**

1. Problems are **inevitable**.
2. Problems are **unpredictable**.
3. Problems are **variable** (different kinds).
4. Problems are **purposeful**.

James 1:3b-4 ~ **3 Values of Problems:**

1. Problems **purify my faith**.
2. Problems **fortify my patience**.
3. Problems **sanctify my character**.

James 1:5-6 ~ **How to Handle Your Problems**

1. **Give thanks – REJOICE!** We don't rejoice **FOR** the problem, but we rejoice **IN** the problem. (see also 1 Thess 5:18 In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.)
2. **Pray** – Request help from God for wisdom.
3. **Relax** – Believe and let God work in your life.

This is a great way to get into scripture and share God's Word with others through Christian conversation in a relaxed, safe atmosphere. Class begins sometime before 10:30 (following fellowship time between worship services), meeting in the Library in the Education wing. Meeshia Halverson and Sherry Morgan take turns leading discussion. The class will meet during the summer months. So if the Holy Spirit has been giving you a nudge to read the Bible and/or get involved in a small-group discussion, NOW is a great time to say yes to His nudging! Any questions, contact Meeshia at firmbeliever65@gmail.com or Sherry at morgansherry50@hotmail.com.

Thank You!

To the Youth for sharing their stories with us as Graduation unfolded.

For the ladies who made our May 18th breakfast great!

For everyone who stepped up and cleaned up the church.

For those who are working behind the scenes to make our Habitat Build come true.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO EDGE	2	3	4
5 8:00 Men's Study 9:00 Christian Education 9:00 & 10:30 Worship	6	7	8 7:00 Trustees 7-8 EDGE Cookout @ Steve's	9	10	11
12 Youth Mission Trip 12th-18th 8:00 Men's Study 9:00 Christian Education 9:00 & 10:30 Worship	13	14	15 NO EDGE 7:00 Outreach	16	17 2:00 LeRoy Manor Birthday Party	18
19 8:00 Men's Study 9:00 Christian Education 9:00 & 10:30 Worship	20	21	22 7-8 EDGE ice cream @ church	23 6:00 Hope Circle	24	25
26 8:00 Men's Study 9:00 Christian Education 9:00 & 10:30 Worship 5:00 Vespers 6: Free community Meal	27	28	29 6-8:30 EDGE swim party @ Beal's	30		

GREETERS-Arrive by 8:30 & 10AM

6/5 9:00 Grainger
 10:30 Payne
 6/12 9:00 Jill L. & Renee H.
 10:30 Jill L. & Renee H.
 6/19 9:00 Tarr
 10:30
 6/26 9:00
 10:30 Joyce N. & Vicky H.

USHERS

6/5 9:00 Grainger & Etherton
 10:30
 6/12 9:00 Beal
 10:30 Lohnes & Roggy
 6/19 9:00 Taylor
 10:30
 6/26 9:00 Sutter
 10:30 Moberly

LITURGIST

6/5 Andrea Fleming
 6/12
 6/19 Karla Lohnes
 6/26 Sharon Roggy

NURSERY

6/5 9:00 Sydney 10:30 Eryn
 6/12 9:00 10:30 Nick
 6/19 9:00 Emmy 10:30 Nate
 6/26 9:00 Jacob 10:30 Olivia

SPECIAL MUSIC

6/5 All Choirs
 6/12 Karla Lohnes
 6/19
 6/26 Youth Mission Video

COUNTERS

6/5 Amanda & Bob
 6/12 Leland & Jill
 6/19 Kent & Kyle
 6/26 Joyce & Kevin

FOOD PANTRY VOL.

6/13 Denis Cox & Peg Golden

MUSIC!! MUSIC!!

MUSIC SUNDAY will be celebrated on June 5 at the 10:30 am service. All three choirs will participate in the service, and will be recognized for their gifts of music. Wesley Choir will reprise "I'll Fly Away," and share additional favorite anthems. Joyful Praise Choir will present a medley of songs, ending with our absolute favorite. The Handbell Choir will play "Plink, Plank, Plunk" and a melodic prelude.

The Music Sunday service signals the end of the current Singing and Ringing Season, and choir rehearsals will begin again on September 7, after a Choir Family Night kick-off party on Wednesday, August 31. Watch the Lamplighter for more information!

Please join us as we celebrate the gift of music and the hard work by our choir members!
 Steve Dean "The Choir Director"

Hope Circle

We will be eating at Cousin's for this month's meeting, June 23rd, at 6:00. If you would like to carpool please meet at the church at 5:30pm.

Ushers & Greeters

If you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday morning usher or greeter in 2016 there are still spots available. The greatest needs are for ushers for most Sundays at both services and greeters for the fourth Sunday of each month. Even if you can't commit to one Sunday every month, we still want to hear from you. Any help is needed and appreciated. If you would like to sign up or want more information, please contact Cori Swanson at [309-798-8183](tel:309-798-8183) or allisocar@gmail.com. Thanks for your consideration!

Volunteers Needed

On the second Monday of every month the FUMC is responsible for providing two volunteers to help serve at the Christian Church's Food Pantry. We are in need of more volunteers. You will need to be at the Christian Church at 5:00 to help get things set up and then you will help distribute the food to the people. Call or email, leroyumc.org, the church if you are interested in volunteering.

Peace Meals is always looking for volunteer drivers and meal servers, if you would like to help with this contact Judy at 309-200-7429

Journey Biblical Principle of Giving #5

Our giving reflects our values and priorities

Several years ago, there was a movie about an industrialist Nazi named Oskar Schindler. His heart became compassionate to the plight of the Jewish people and he ended up creating jobs for these people which in the end, saved about 1,200 Jewish lives. In the movie, there is a poignant scene in which Schindler is reprimanding himself for not using his resources more wisely. He is in essence blaming himself for not saving more lives. I believe this scene vividly illustrates the change in Mr. Schindler to an individual whose giving through creativity reflected his values and priorities which were the saving of human lives.

Our story might not be quite so dramatic; however, we are taught through the scriptures that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt 6:21). In other words, our giving should reflect what is important to us. Matthew 6: 19-21 says:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus is calling us to re-evaluate things that are important to us – things we treasure. For some, it is sports, or big houses, or new cars, or lots of clothes, or prestige, or power. You get the picture.

We as Christians are called to take a close look at what we value. We are called to reflect on how we use our time and money. If you take a look at your calendar, you can see what things take up your time. If you review your checkbook or credit card statement, you will see how you use your money. These are our treasures which we would not have if not for God's generosity to us.

In May, we heard about the adult mission trip to Las Vegas, NV. We saw how a family, the Blands, show how they are the church to the homeless and hungry by dedicating themselves to full time ministry. We don't have to travel to be the church. We are needed here in LeRoy. Supporting our church through our giving is an important means to fulfilling our mission:

"... to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of LeRoy and the World."

Where is your treasure?
 By Karla Lohnes

2016 Year-to-Date Snapshot of General Fund

For it is in *giving*
 that we *receive*.

\$(15,320.89) 1/1/16 Beginning Balance
 94,630.43 YTD Receipts
 (92,470.86) YTD Expenses
 \$(13,161.32) 4/30/16 Deficit



A copy of the monthly Treasurer's Report is in the Church Office if you would like to review it or email jillittle@earthlink.net and a copy will be forwarded to you.

Deadline for the July Lamplighter is June 20th.

Church History

The building across the street served the needs of the Methodist and the community for many years, but the need arose for more room and for a more modern building. In 1901 a request was sent to the conference asking that a new minister be appointed for the purpose of erecting a new church building. Rev. Thornton Clark was sent to the charge and did very much work toward building the new structure. Rev. Clark was both a solicitor and the chairman of the building fund. The church was built with a lot of volunteer labor and was finished at a cost of \$18,000. Dedication of the church was set for January 4, 1903. An account in the LeRoy Journal stated that the Rev. T.C. Iliff preached the morning service. The pastor stated that \$5,558 was needed to settle all the claims against the building. The dedication service would be held as soon as the amount was given. \$300 was pledged at the evening service and \$4800 was given during the morning service making a total of \$5150 pledged that day. Everyone in town helped in raising the amount. The people of the other churches were very much in attendance at the dedication events and "the Presbyterians gave grandly." The entire amount was pledged by Monday and the dedication service was held Monday night. The building was pronounced to be one of the most handsome churches in Central Illinois as well as the biggest one in the community and was used for many local events. The dimensions of this building were 98x70 feet.

Sermon Series for June

6/5 10X10 Journey – Telling Your Faith Story

Scripture:

Title: Know your faith story

Loose Offering: TGIL

6/12 10X10 Journey – Telling Your Faith Story

Scripture:

Title: Share how you received Jesus

Loose Offering: Bland Family

6/19 10X10 Journey – Telling Your Faith Story

Scripture:

Title: Share how you changed, how you didn't

Loose Offering: Liberia Partnership

6/26 10X10 Journey – Telling Your Faith Story

Scripture:

Title: Always include an invitation

Loose Offering: Adult Mission

LeRoy Manor Party

We are responsible for serving refreshments at the LeRoy Manor's Birthday Party on Friday June 17 at 2:00pm. We need 3 cakes-1 angel food, 1 chocolate, 1 other, and 2 large containers of vanilla ice cream. Two volunteers are needed to help serve this day also. You would need to get there around 1:30pm. See Sharon Roggy or email her at rsroggy@frontier.com if you could help in any manner. Thank you very much!

Education

VBS 2016

July 25-29, 6:00pm-8:00pm

VBS plans are well underway. You won't want to miss joining us in the "Surf Shack". VBS is open to all children ages 4 – entering 6th grade in fall 2016. Anyone older is invited to volunteer to help with VBS.

We are trying something new with VBS this year. Monday-Thursday nights will be the same as in previous years with the children moving from area to area throughout the evening. Friday night will be a "family night". We will invite parents to join us that night as we gather in the sanctuary to review what we've learned through the week. Parents & children will then move to Fellowship Hall to complete the craft for that night, followed by a snack.

There will also be a special surprise "event" to close out our week of VBS. I promise you won't want to miss it! Please visit our new VBS webpage at:

www.cokesburyvbs.com/leroyumc

By visiting this page you can:

* Register your child by clicking on the "Register a Child" link.

* Sign up to volunteer by clicking on the "Volunteer" link.

* Sign up to donate supplies by clicking on the "Registry" link at the top of the page. You can then scroll through to see all of the supplies we need for VBS this year. Needed supplies will be added to the website no later than June 1.

Please feel free to share this website with friends/family that would like to register their child, volunteer, or donate supplies. If you need help with the webpage, or if you have general questions regarding VBS, please contact Michelle Benz at 309-838-1456.

Pastor's Corner

I re-learned an important lesson last night and it is fitting for where we are in our Journey sermon series. Last month we month focused on building simple human connections with people through sharing meals or other similar events. Find a piece of common ground and take that opportunity to simply get to know one another. Build the levels of trust that we must have to later make an impact. This month we are going to talk about our ability to tell our faith story. We will try to understand what it is and then how important it is for use to be able to share that narrative in a way that is appropriate and relevant to those with whom we are sharing it. Last night, I witnessed what happens if you get those things wrong.

As an adventurous person and a guy who likes motorcycles I am excited to watch people go do great things with them. If everyone at church watched "The Long Way Round" I would likely lose someone to a 115-day trip around the world. Last night I went to see a movie that was promoted as the Colorado 8-day version of "The Long Way Round." It talked of story and life and purpose but the trailer left out important information. It didn't tell the future watcher that it was a faith based film, it sold itself on the bikes but went another direction. Now, before I get too far into this, know that I do think the overall message was good and this film has its place (largely for men who are already followers of Jesus to think about how to talk with those who are not but interested). But this film missed our meals month. The film came out saying "I ride motorcycles and so do you so we are best bros." In reality, only one of the guys in the film was a motorcycle rider and the lessons learned about culture and relationship was lost because they didn't have meals first. This was an attempt to meet someone on their own turf but an attempt to do so while controlling the conversation. We must be willing to meet people where they are and let them be themselves before we move to sharing our faith story.

For telling their faith story, the narratives of those stories were not bad. They were real and as complete as could be for what we can tell in a film. The problem was that they were not genuine. The importance of getting "it" right seemed to have forced the producers to create a series of "campfire" talks that could easily be felt by the audience as scripted. When we begin to tell our faith story, we must do so in authentic ways. We must be willing to have a vulnerability and fluidity that was missing here. Our faith story is about our changes from "my faith story" to the story of God in Christ and my part in it. When we can say that in clear and passionate ways to those who do not yet understand it there is a respect for our openness that doesn't happen when it is clear that we are scripting what we say so that it is "right."

So what do I want you to get out of this little rant?

First, don't be afraid of doing something great and adventurous. But when you enter into the culture and lives of those outside the church, don't try to control everything. Don't clean it up so that you are comfortable. Allow yourself to sit in that space and learn from those who live there. Next, tell your story! But don't tell your story with filters and fluff. Don't wait for the perfect scene or setting. Tell your faith story at the right time and in the best way that you can so that the person who hears it can understand it. Don't be afraid to tell someone how Jesus has changed your life, following him is a grand adventure. But don't make it what it is not, people will always see through that.

This is not easy work. This work is still very necessary. Pray for this work and be ready for it as you find yourself out in the world.

Peace + Grace,

Pastor Eric